

Budapest Communists On RFE Program

The number of listeners of SZER (RFE) PEST is increasing, and reception on 41 and 31 wave lengths is fairly good after 1900 hours. However, complaints are voiced not so much because of jamming as to the fact that strong Western stations (London, Voice of America) operating on the same wave lengths interfere so much as to render the reception unenjoyable and spotty. The majority of the listeners prefer the 2000, 21000 and 2200 hour news on weekdays. Everybody is satisfied with the the international news service because the news are up-to-date, interesting and well-chosen.

One of the reasons why SZER is popular is that it is the only stationamong the Hungarian-language Western broadcasts which deals was with Hungarian and iron curtain events. Many people are of the opinion that the property news coverage pertaining to comestic events ought to be enlarged. In addition to international news service, SZER should introduce a "radio newspaper", which would at regular intervals give a brief coverage of events that are omitted by the Communist press. The Hungarian listeners would like to hear the little problems of everyday life, chitchats too, which were previously read by 90% of newspaper readers after they have perused the headlines of international events.

Many things were changed in Hungary, but people especially at £0

The Pest have not changed in one respect; they are still interested in domestic chitchats. To illustrate this point one may cite the respect following example: not a single person has ever gone to his acquaintance asking him if he heard the latest nows about Eisenhower. Instead, people asks questions like" have you heard that, according the SZER, one cannot sneak into the time street car without paying the fare because the secret police..." In other words, they still want small talk and local sensations, without long comments, now that the tabloids do not exist any more.

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According to many radio listeners, it would be advisable to narrow the field of arguements with Communist newspapers. It must be realized that nobody reads the newspapers with which the SZER argues in earnest. Many people have the impression that this one-sided polemics is nothing else but a personal fight between newspaper men belonging to two different camps, which takes without the slightest interest on the part of the readers. This is also some sort of propaganda for the Communists, which should not be overdone.

As far as the time of the broadcasts is concerned, the consensus of opinion is that the SZER should start its program at 0800 hours. It is a puzzle to many people that this valuable time, when percent of the workers are at home, is not used. At this time, the workers, provided that the reception is good, the workers are in the position to listen to the program undisturbed.

DATE OF OBSERVATION:

Current

COMMENT:

Interesting comment



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Suggestions for RFE Programs

A Hungarian refugee suggests that SZER give a radio course on the assembly of radio sets. Source states that the cheap sets available on the market are not suitable for the reception of Western (short wave) stations. A radio course would be very popular, and amateurs would be able to purchase the necessary parts. According to source, the reception of SZER programs is feasible with medium capacity sets. The programs are popular.

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Criticism of Western Broadcasts Mainly RFE

"If the Western radio stations gave no Hungarian-language program, the number of suicides would increase by 300 percent".

The intelligentsia prefers the London radio for its unbiased, straight news reporting. Foreign news coverage of the Voice of America is good, and its account of the activities of American politicians is electrifying, but, frankly, its news coverage pertaining to Hungary abounds in preposterous canards.

Radio Free Europe is popular, but its program must be improved in many respects. Aspecially popular ass RFE's practice of naming informers and Communists.

#The "Reflektor" program is good but crowded and its presentation is so poor that half of it cannot be understood. The Hungarian radio listeners ask RFE not to mention the fact that letters are coming from Hungary because this announcement may endanger the lives of the relatives. Sending messages with music as well as gypsy music playing numbers that are forbidden at home are also very good, but not enough.

However, certain blunders were committed. For example, a statement (Paris broadcast, Feb 1952) to the effect that the year of 1945 brought political freedom to the people was received with resentment.

The round table program needs to be improved tho. Instead of empty verbosity, the listeners expect to hear logical explanation of the real situation so that they could better prepare for new terror regulations of the government. The Hungarians

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eagerly waiting for the liberation, therefore reconciliation and unity should be emphasized by RFE.

The listeners lack good variety shows ("kabare"). The existing programs are rare and not too witty.

The reception, as a whole, is bad. Why does RFE use overburdened wave lengths? Why not use medium or long waves? The Communists dom not even have to bother with jamming because the Western stations interfere with each other. The announcers should not repeat so loudly and so often "Here is RFE". It is not so simple to listen to RFE and their loud station identification is nerve wracking.

Improvement of RFE is absolutely necessary because it is the only alleday radio service bringing the volce of freedom to the Hungarians.



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	Criticism O	n Western	Broadcastin	ıg_	

The RFE is popular in Hungary, and even the Communists listen to it. Reading of names appearing on the "black list" is especially good, and it has a frightening effect on Communists whose names are mentioned. However, the appeal to the listeners to write to the station is criticized, because this practice may lead to even stronger censorship. Western messages are popular.

Many listeners urge the RFE to use a conciliatory tone toward. the sinners of the past who have already paid for their mistakes. The RFE should not devote so much time to the enumeration of mistakes that were committed in the "old $H_{\rm ungary}$ ".

There is a constant need for a more extensive and frequent news coverage dealing with Hungarian events.

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Criticism of RFE

(Jehova's Witnesses)
religious sect. Of 6,000 members in Hungary, approximately 800 deprived of their freedom. Source states that the RFE broadcasts are very popular.

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IAI



Source had a German-made radio set suitable to receive Western stations. He stated that RFE broadcasts are popular. The farmers especially liked the "Balint azda" (Farmer Balint) program. Reception in the border zone is very good. Jamming is infrequent, but the voice often fades or other Wester stations disturb the reception. Source, a man-smuggler, or other Wester stations disturb the reception. Source, a man-smuggler, requests RFE not to specify certain border zones as having easy routes for refugees, because this practice makes escape more difficult.

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Criticism of Western Broadcasts														

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Source had listened to RFE broadcasts in a shop where a 8-tube set was available between 1800 and 2000 hours. Source and other listeners liked the "csasztuska" (folk song) program. Another popular program among the workers is the Communist black list. In many shops, workers before commencing their daily activities, discuss this black list.

Source states that the Hungarian listeners are interested in political news only, and they like Hungarian music, too.

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CULTURE

The Public Library at RAJKA

The librarian of the public library at RAJK is a 29-year-old Communist, Jozsef TOLNAI. In addition to a few books of Russian novelists, the library has the selected speeches of Lenin, Stalin, Engels, Rakosi, etc, altogether some 70 dirty, dusty volumes. Originally, the books were intended for sale, but nobody purchased them, not even Communists.

Then the books were offered to the readers on a loan basis for one forint. However, this scheme has not worked either, and the books continue to gather dust on the shelves.

-//-BESTRICTED PROPAGANDA YOUTH

same result.

Effect of Communist Folitical Education On RAJKA Youth

SOURCE SALZBURG: A butcher, 29, from RAJKA. Escaped 29 December 1951

DATE OF OBSERVATION: until 29 December 1951

The Communist regime strives to reeducate the youth along Communist lines, and, unfortunately, it can bosst of some success. Part of this destructive work is being done within the Association of Freedom Fighters (Szabadsagharcos Szovetseg), and its effect in many cases so great that children are turning against their parents. It is the hope of these patents that the Western radio propaganda will counteract the Communist influence among the youth.

It is the duty of the Western radios to tell the youth that workers in the West live under better conditions, are free, and that the future does not belong to Bolshevism.

Source quotes 2 cases in RAJKA, where children became members of the Association of Freedom Fighters and turned against their farmer fathers. Istvan SZATMARI, a member of this organization became an ememy of his own father, Gyula SZATMARI, a kulak farmer. Another farmer, Lajos SURANYI has a son who also joined the organization. His "reeducation" brought the

COMMENT: No confirmation available on above case, but in line with general demoralization of Hungarian youth. Name of SURANYI confirmed.

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